

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended): A dental appliance which is placed in a mouth of a user wherein the user has upper teeth and lower teeth, the dental appliance comprising:

a generally U-shaped base having a length defined between a first end and a second end ~~and having~~ wherein the base has an upper occlusal surface and a lower occlusal surface wherein the occlusal surface which are sized to receive the upper teeth or the lower teeth of the user wherein the upper occlusal surface contacts the upper teeth of the user when the base is placed within the mouth wherein the lower occlusal surface contacts the lower teeth of the user when the base is placed within the mouth of the user wherein the base has an interior surface which substantially surrounds a surface of at least one of the upper teeth and at least one of the lower teeth wherein the first end has a rear portion which is made from a first material and the second end has a front portion which is made from a second material wherein the first material is stiffer than the second material wherein the second material moves at least one of the upper teeth of the user or at least one of the lower teeth of the user when the base is worn in the mouth of the user ~~adheres the base to at least one of the teeth.~~

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original): The dental appliance of Claim 1 wherein the interior surface is roughened.

4. (Original): The dental appliance of Claim 1 wherein the occlusal surface is flat.

5. (Currently amended): The dental appliance of Claim 1 further comprising:

a mark on the interior surface indicating an amount of the reline material in contact with the interior surface wherein the interior surface prevents the reline material from disengaging from the generally U-shaped base.

6. (Original): The dental appliance of Claim 1 further comprising:

a socket formed within the interior surface wherein the socket is shaped to receive a tooth of the user.

7. (Currently amended): The dental appliance of Claim 1 ~~wherein the base is constructed from a first material and a second material wherein the first material has a lesser degree of rigidity than the second material~~ wherein the upper occlusal surface is movable with respect to the lower occlusal surface wherein the front end of the upper occlusal surface is separable from the front end of the lower occlusal surface.

8. (Original): The dental appliance of Claim 1 wherein the base is sized to contact at least one tooth but not all teeth when the base is placed within the mouth.

9. (Previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 1 wherein the interior surface adheres to at least one of the teeth.

10. (Currently amended): The dental appliance of Claim 1 wherein the base increases in rigidity from the ~~first end~~ front portion to the ~~second end~~ rear portion.

11. (Original): The dental appliance of Claim 1 further comprising:
lingual tabs adjacent to the occlusal surface wherein the lingual tabs extend rearward into the mouth when the base is placed within the mouth.

12. (Original): The dental appliance of Claim 1 further comprising:
a shield extending from the occlusal surface wherein the shield covers the teeth when the base is placed within the mouth.

13. (Original): The dental appliance of Claim 1 further comprising:
a wall extending from the occlusal surface wherein the wall exerts a force against teeth when the base is placed within the mouth.

14. (Currently amended): A system of dental appliances wherein each of the dental appliances has a length defined between a first end and a second end and wherein each of the dental appliances is placed within the mouth of a user having upper teeth and lower teeth wherein the mouth of the user has an incisor and a molar, the system comprising:

a first dental appliance having a generally U-shaped upper base which contacts upper teeth of the user when the upper base is placed within the mouth;

a second dental appliance having a generally U-shaped lower base wherein the lower base contacts lower teeth of the user when the lower base is placed within the mouth and wherein the upper base is adjacent to the lower base and wherein the upper base and the lower base define an interior surface having a concave portion wherein the first dental appliance ~~is made from a first material and a second material wherein the~~ and the second dental appliance ~~is~~ are made from a first material and a second material wherein the first material is stiffer than the second material wherein a front portion of the upper base and the lower base is adjacent to the second material and the incisor in the mouth of the user and further wherein a rear portion of the upper base and the lower base is adjacent to the first material and the molar in the mouth of the user; and

a hinge connecting the second material of the upper base to the second material of the lower base wherein the concave portion and the hinge prevent the upper base and the lower base from sliding when placed within the mouth wherein the hinge is made from a third material wherein the third material is stiffer than the first material.

15. (Original): The system of Claim 14 further comprising:

a shield extending from the upper base wherein the shield covers the teeth when the upper base is placed in the mouth.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended): The system of Claim 14 further comprising:

a shield extending from the concave portion of the upper base or the lower base wherein the shield covers the teeth when the first dental appliance and the second dental appliance are placed within the mouth.

19. (Original): The system of Claim 14 further comprising:

an occlusal surface on the first dental appliance wherein the occlusal surface contacts the upper teeth when the first dental appliance is placed within the mouth wherein the occlusal surface is flat.

20. (Previously presented): The system of Claim 14 wherein the interior surface is roughened.

21. (Original): The system of Claim 14 further comprising:

a socket formed within the first dental appliance wherein the socket is shaped to receive at least one of the teeth of the user.

22. (Currently amended): The system of Claim 14 ~~wherein the first dental appliance is constructed from a first material and a second material wherein the first material has a lesser degree of rigidity than the second material~~ wherein the upper base rotates with respect to the lower base via the hinge wherein the front end of the upper base is separable from the front end of the lower base via the hinge.

23. (Original): The system of Claim 14 wherein the first dental appliance and the second dental appliance are sized to contact at least one but not all of the teeth when the first dental appliance and the second dental appliance are placed within the mouth.

24. (Currently amended): The system of Claim 14 further comprising:

a substance located between one tooth of the user and the concave portion wherein the substance enables ~~the~~ to the concave portion to adhere to one tooth of the user.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Original): The system of Claim 14 further comprising:

lingual tabs formed within the second dental appliance wherein the lingual tabs extend rearward into the mouth when the second dental appliance is placed within the mouth.

27. (Currently amended): A dental appliance having a length defined between a first end and a second end wherein the dental appliance is placed within a mouth of a user having upper teeth and lower teeth wherein the mouth of the user has an incisor and a molar, the dental appliance comprising:

a generally U-shaped upper base having a front portion, a rear portion which is located opposite to the front portion and an upper occlusal surface wherein the upper occlusal surface contacts the upper teeth;

a generally U-shaped lower base having a front portion and a rear portion which is located opposite to the front portion wherein

the lower base is connected to the upper base wherein the lower base has a lower occlusal surface wherein the lower occlusal surface contacts the lower teeth wherein the upper occlusal surface and the lower occlusal surface are sized to receive the upper teeth or the lower teeth of the user wherein the upper base and the lower base are made of a first material and a second material wherein the first material is stiffer than the second material wherein the second material moves one of the upper teeth of the user or one of the lower teeth of the user wherein the front portion of the upper base and the lower base is adjacent to the second material and the incisor in the mouth of the user and further wherein the rear portion of the upper base and the lower base is adjacent to the first material and the molar in the mouth of the user; and

a hinge insertable within the upper base and the lower base wherein the hinge connects the first end of the upper base and the first end of the lower base wherein the hinge and the first material of the upper base and the lower base attach the upper base and the lower base to the mouth of the user.

28. (Original): The dental appliance of Claim 27 wherein the upper base is sized to contact teeth closest to an exterior of the mouth but does not contact teeth furthest within the mouth.

29. (Original): The dental appliance of Claim 27 further comprising:

a plurality of sockets within the upper base wherein each of the sockets are sized to receive a single tooth of the user.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Original): The dental appliance of Claim 27 wherein the occlusal surface is flat.

32. (Original): The dental appliance of Claim 27 further comprising:

a shield extending from the upper base wherein the reline material is adjacent to the shield.

33. (Currently amended): The dental appliance of Claim 27 further comprising:

a mark on the upper base indicating an amount of a reline material in contact with the upper base wherein the upper base receives the reline material wherein the reline material prevents the upper base from dislodging from the upper teeth of the user when the upper base is worn on the upper teeth.

34. (Original): The dental appliance of Claim 27 further comprising:

a socket formed within the upper base wherein the socket is shaped to receive two or more of the teeth of the user.

35. (Original): The dental appliance of Claim 27 further comprising:

a shield extending from the lower base wherein the shield covers the teeth when the lower base is placed in the mouth.

36. (Previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 27 wherein the upper occlusal surface adheres to the upper teeth.

37. (Currently amended): The dental appliance of Claim 27 wherein the lower base ~~increases~~ decreases in rigidity from the first end to the second end.

38. (Original): The dental appliance of Claim 27 further comprising:

lingual tabs integrally formed with the lower base wherein the lingual tabs extend rearward into the mouth when the lower base is placed within the mouth.

39. (Previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 27 wherein the upper occlusal surface and the lower occlusal surface are roughened .

40. (Currently amended): A dental appliance having a width defined between a first end and a second end wherein the dental appliance is placed in a mouth of a user having upper teeth and lower teeth, the dental appliance comprising:

a generally U-shaped upper base having an upper occlusal surface wherein the upper occlusal surface contacts the upper teeth wherein the upper base is made from a first material and a second material wherein the first material is stiffer than the second material;

a generally U-shaped lower base connected to the upper base wherein the lower base has a lower occlusal surface wherein the

lower occlusal surface contacts the lower teeth wherein the lower base is made from the first material and the second material;

a hinge integrally formed with the upper base and the lower base wherein the hinge connects the upper base and the lower base wherein the upper occlusal surface adheres to one of the upper teeth via the first material of the upper base and further wherein the second material of the lower base ~~occlusal surface~~ moves one of the lower teeth.

41. (Currently amended): The dental appliance of Claim 40 further comprising:

a substance surrounding the upper occlusal surface and the lower ~~occlusal~~ occlusal surface.

42. (Canceled)

43. (Canceled)

44. (Original): The dental appliance of Claim 40 further comprising:

a plurality of sockets wherein each of the plurality of sockets is shaped to receive a single tooth.

45. (Currently amended): The dental appliance of Claim 40 wherein the upper occlusal surface and the lower occlusal surface are ~~is~~ flat.

46. (Original): The dental appliance of Claim 40 wherein the upper occlusal surface is roughened.

47. (Previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 40 wherein the lower occlusal surface is roughened.

48. (Original): The dental appliance of Claim 40 wherein the upper base is sized to contact teeth adjacent an exterior of the mouth but does not contact teeth furthest within the mouth.

49. (Original): The dental appliance of Claim 40 wherein the upper base varies in rigidity from an exterior of the mouth to an interior of the mouth when the upper base is placed within the mouth.

50. (Previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 40 wherein the hinge causes the upper base to adhere to the upper teeth.

51. (Currently amended): The dental appliance of Claim 40 wherein the lower base varies in rigidity from ~~the first end to the second end~~ an exterior of the mouth to an interior of the mouth when the upper base is placed within the mouth.

52. (Original): The dental appliance of Claim 40 wherein the hinge provides resistance against movement of the upper base toward the lower base.

53. (Currently amended): The dental appliance of Claim 40 wherein the ~~first material has a lesser degree of rigidity than the second material~~ upper base rotates with respect to the lower base via the hinge wherein the upper occlusal surface separates from the lower occlusal surface.

54. (Currently amended): A method for treating a malocclusion of a user having a mouth having one or more teeth, the method comprising the steps of:

diagnosing the user with the malocclusion;

determining an amount of time the user is required to place the dental appliance within the mouth on a periodic basis wherein the dental appliance has a generally U-shaped base wherein the base is made from a first material and a second material wherein the first material is stiffer than the second material wherein the base has an upper occlusal surface and a lower occlusal surface which is located opposite to the upper occlusal surface wherein the upper occlusal surface and the lower occlusal surface have and further ~~has a socket~~ sockets formed within the base sized to receive at least one or more teeth of the user wherein ~~the~~ a socket which is formed in the second material and further wherein the socket moves at least one of the teeth of the user and corrects the malocclusion; and

wearing the dental appliance for less than the amount of time required while extending the periodic basis.

55. (Previously presented): The method of Claim 54 further comprising the step of:

adhering the dental appliance to at least one of the teeth of the user to prevent the dental appliance from slipping within the mouth when the dental appliance is placed within the mouth.

56. (Original): The method of Claim 54 further comprising the step of:

providing a second dental appliance after the malocclusion is treated wherein the second dental appliance acts as a retainer.

57. (Currently amended): A dental appliance having a length defined between a first end and a second end wherein the dental appliance is placed within a mouth of a user having upper teeth and lower teeth wherein the mouth of the user has an incisor and a molar, the dental appliance comprising:

a generally U-shaped upper base having a front portion, a rear portion and an upper occlusal surface wherein the upper occlusal surface contacts the upper teeth;

a generally U-shaped lower base having a front portion and a rear portion which is located opposite to the front portion wherein the lower base is connected to the upper base wherein the lower base has a lower occlusal surface wherein the lower occlusal surface contacts the lower teeth wherein the front portion of the upper base and the lower base is made from a first material and the rear portion of the upper base and the lower base is made from a second material wherein the first material is stiffer than the second material wherein the front portion of the upper base and the lower base are adjacent to the incisor in the mouth of the user when the upper base and the lower base are worn in the mouth of the user wherein the rear portion of the upper base and the lower base

are adjacent to the molar in the mouth of the user when the upper base and the lower base are worn in the mouth of the user; and

a hinging mechanism insertable within the upper base and the lower base wherein the hinging mechanism connects the upper base and the lower base wherein the upper occlusal surface and the lower occlusal surface are roughened.

58. (Previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 57 further comprising:

a slot formed within the upper occlusal surface wherein the slot is sized to receive two or more teeth.

59. (Previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 57 further comprising:

a slot formed within the lower occlusal surface wherein the slot is sized to receive two or more teeth.

60. (Previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 57 further comprising:

lingual tabs formed within the lower base wherein the lingual tabs extend rearward into the mouth when the lower base is placed within the mouth.

61. (Previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 57 further comprising:

a socket formed in the upper occlusal surface and the lower occlusal surface wherein the socket is sized to receive one of the teeth of the user.

62. (Previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 57 wherein the lower base increases in rigidity from the first end to the second end.

63. (Previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 57 wherein the upper base increases in rigidity from the first end to the second end.

64. (Currently amended): A dental appliance having a width defined between a first end and a second end wherein the dental appliance is placed in a mouth of a user having upper teeth and lower teeth, the dental appliance comprising:

a generally U-shaped upper base having an upper occlusal surface wherein the upper occlusal surface contacts the upper teeth;

a generally U-shaped lower base connected to the upper base wherein the lower base has a lower occlusal surface wherein the lower occlusal surface contacts the lower teeth wherein the upper base and the lower base are made from a first material and a second material wherein the first material is stiffer than the second material; and

a hinge integrally formed with the upper base and the lower base wherein the hinge connects the upper base and the lower base wherein the hinge provides resistance against movement of the upper base toward the lower base wherein the hinge prevents the upper base and the lower base from sliding when placed within the mouth

of the user wherein the hinge attaches and the first material of the upper base and the lower base attach the lower base and the upper base to the mouth of the user.

65. (Previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 64 further comprising:

one or more sockets within the upper base wherein at least one of the sockets is shaped to correspond to a shape of one of the teeth.

66. (Previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 64 further comprising:

one or more sockets within the lower base wherein at least one of the sockets is shaped to correspond to a shape of one of the teeth.

67. (Previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 64 wherein the hinge is more rigid than the upper base and the lower base.

68. (Currently amended): The dental appliance of Claim 64 further comprising:

a mark on the lower base indicating an amount of a reline material in contact with the lower base wherein the lower base receives the reline material wherein the reline material prevents the lower base from dislodging from the lower teeth of the user when the lower base is worn on the lower teeth of the user.

69. (Canceled)

70. (Previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 64 wherein the upper base and the lower base are sized to contact at least one tooth but not all teeth when the upper base and the lower base are placed within the mouth.

71. (Currently amended): A dental appliance which is placed in a mouth of a user having upper teeth and lower teeth to treat a malocclusion of the upper teeth, the dental appliance comprising:

a generally U-shaped base having a top side and a bottom side which is located opposite to the top side wherein an occlusal surface is formed on the top side of the base ~~which is sized to receive the upper teeth and treat~~ wherein the occlusal surface treats the malocclusion wherein the malocclusion is associated only with the upper teeth wherein the base is made of a first material and a second material wherein the first material is stiffer than the second material wherein the base is attachable to at least one of the upper teeth of the user via the ~~second~~ first material wherein the second material moves at least one of the upper teeth of the user; and

two or more sockets formed within the top side of the base wherein at least one of the sockets is preformed and at least one of the sockets is customized to a shape of one of the upper teeth wherein the bottom side of the base does not contact the bottom teeth of the user when the base is worn in the mouth of the user.

72. (Previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 71 further comprising:

a substance on the base wherein the substance prevents the base from slipping within the mouth of the user.

73. (Currently amended): The dental appliance of Claim 71 ~~wherein the first material has a lesser degree of rigidity than the second material~~ further comprising:

a hinge attached to the base wherein the hinge is made from the first material wherein the hinge separates the base and the lower teeth of the user when the base is worn in the mouth of the user.

74. (Previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 71 further comprising:

a shield extending from the upper base wherein the shield covers the teeth when the upper base is placed in the mouth.

75. (Previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 71 further comprising:

a slot formed along the base wherein the slot has a flat occlusal surface.

76. (Previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 71 wherein at least one of the preformed sockets is sized to receive two or more of the teeth.

77. (Currently amended): A dental appliance which is placed in a mouth of a user having lower teeth and upper teeth to treat a malocclusion of the lower teeth, the dental appliance comprising:

a generally U-shaped base ~~which~~ having a top side and a bottom side which is located opposite the top side wherein an occlusal surface is formed on the bottom side of the base wherein the bottom side of the base is sized to receive the lower teeth wherein the occlusal surface treats and treat the malocclusion wherein the malocclusion is associated only with the lower teeth wherein the base is made of a first material and a second material wherein the first material is stiffer than the second material wherein the second material of the base moves at least one of the lower teeth of the user ~~via the second material;~~

two or more sockets formed within the bottom side of the base wherein at least one of the sockets is preformed and at least one of the sockets is customized to a shape of one of the upper lower teeth wherein the top side of the base does not contact the top teeth of the user when the base is worn in the mouth of the user.

78. (Previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 77 wherein the first material of the base prevents the base from slipping within the mouth of the user.

79. (Currently amended): The dental appliance of Claim 77 ~~wherein the first material has a lesser degree of rigidity than the second material~~ further comprising:

a hinge attached to the base wherein the hinge is made from the first material wherein the hinge separates the base and the upper teeth of the user when the base is worn in the mouth of the user.

80. (Previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 77 further comprising:

a shield extending from the upper base wherein the shield covers the teeth when the upper base is placed in the mouth.

81. (Previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 77 further comprising:

a slot formed along the base wherein the slot has a flat occlusal surface.

82. (Previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 77 wherein at least one of the preformed sockets is sized to receive two or more of the teeth.